

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, CB
SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAM-
PUCHEA

REF: (A) STATE 157953; (B) BANGKOK 17849

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEE,
SOURCE F. END SUMMARY

2. SOURCE F, 38, WAS A FORMER HOSPITAL WORKER. AFTER APRIL,
1976, HE WAS FORCED TO GO TO THE COUNTRYSIDE IN BATTAMBANG
TO BECOME A FARMER. HE FLED TO THAILAND APRIL 21, 1978.
HIS ACCOUNT FOLLOWS:

3. QTE CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. IN
THE PAST THREE YEARS, THE CROPS HAVE BEEN ADEQUATE IN MY
VILLAGE IN BATTAMBANG TO FEED THE POPULATION, BUT THE RICE
IS TAKEN AWAY. I GUESS IT IS EXPORTED TO CHINA TO REPAY
DEBTS.

4. QTE HEALTH CONDITIONS ARE POOR BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT
FOOD, VERY POOR HOUSING, HARD WORK, AND MENTAL MALAISE.
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THERE IS ALSO THE MENACING INTELLECTUAL ATMOSPHERE AND
THE FEAR OF ASSASSINATION.

5. QTE THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE MEDICINE, ONLY CONCOCTIONS OF
ROOTS AND HERBS. MANY ARE EXPERIMENTAL ONLY. THE PEOPLE
ARE USED AS EXPERIMENTAL BEASTS OR OBJECTS. THE KHMER
ROUGE EVEN TRIED TO CONCOCT A POTION WHICH WOULD REVEAL

WHETHER SOMEONE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH THE FORMER REGIME.

6. QTE THERE WAS NO RPT NO QUESTION OF USING ONE'S MEDICAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE. ALL THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH THE FORMER REGIME ARE AUTOMATICALLY TRAITORS.

7. QTE ANOTHER LUDICROUS EXAMPLE OF HOW STUPID THEY ARE. THE KHMER ROUGE CADRE ONCE ANNOUNCED THAT THEY INVENTED A NEW KIND OF PUMP. IN REALITY THEY HAD TAKEN HALF A JAPANESE PUMP AND JOINED IT TO ANOTHER BRAND.

8. QTE THERE IS NO RADIO. NOTHING TO READ. YOU ARE NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO CONVERSE WITH YOUR FRIENDS. THERE IS ONE REVIEW WHICH TELLS ABOUT RICE PRODUCTION, BUT THE SMILING GIRLS ON THE COVERS ARE KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS, NOT THE PEOPLE.

9. QTE SYSTEM OF ADMINISTRATION. THE CHIEF OF OUR COMMUNE WAS AN ILLITERATE, FORMER GUERRILLA OF THE KHMER ROUGE. IF THERE IS ANY TROUBLE AMONG THE PEOPLE, THE KHMER ROUGE SPIES (SCHLOP) RUN QUICKLY AND CALL KHMER ROUGE SOLDIERS WHO ARE STATIONED IN THE FORESTS IN THE AREA.

10. QTE DISCIPLINE WAS INSTILLED BY A FEW "EXAMPLES" OF WHAT ONE COULD EXPECT IF HE VIOLATED THE KHMER ROUGE REGIME:
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-- ONE YOUTH, A MOBILE WORKER, SHOT THE VIALLE CHIEF AND HIS FAMILY. HE WAS DISMEMBERED.

-- A YOUTH WAS CAPTURED FOR A MISDEMEANOR, BUT HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE. HE TOOK A RIFLE FROM A KHMER ROUGE SOLDIER AND KILLED FIVE KHMER ROUGE, SHOUTING, "I KILL ONLY THOSE WHO ARE HUMAN CASKETS--THE KHMER ROUGE." MORE KHMER ROUGE ARRIVED AND KILLED THE YOUTH.

-- ANOTHER YOUTH FORMED A RESISTANCE GROUP WITH TWO FRIENDS. THEY WERE DISCOVERED AND FLED TO THE MOUNTAINS TO ESCAPE CERTAIN DEATH.
THE BLOODY OR FUTILE END TO SUCH INCIDENTS IS A STRONG DETERRENT TO OTHERS.

11. QTE EXECUTIONS. THE KHMER ROUGE HAVE MOVED AGAINST CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE IN INCREASINGLY WIDE CIRCLES. FORMER MILITARY, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND TEACHERS WERE ASSASSINATED FROM THE BEGINNING. THE KHMER ROUGE CHARGE THAT EVERYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE LON NOL REGIME WORKS NOW FOR THE CIA. THIRD GRADERS ARE REGARDED AS "DANGEROUS INTELLECTUALS."

12. QTE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR, EVERYONE WAS PREPARED TO WORK FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CONTRY. BUT THE FEATURE OF THE "REVOLUTION" WHICH BECAME UNACCEPTABLE QUICKLY WAS THE ASSASSINATIONS WITOUT ANY JUDGEMENT. WHY THE ASSASSINATIONS? IN MY OPINION, THEY FLOW FROM THE COMMUNIST DOCTRINE. ONLY THE POOR FARMERS AND

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COOLIES ARE PURE. ALL OTHER CLASSES ARE CORRUPTED. ALL OTHERS ARE NON-PROLETARIAN. FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW, DISCRIMINATION IS PRACTICED AGAINST THE NON-PROLETARIAN, INCLUDING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE RIGHT TO LIVE.

13. QTE LATELY, THE SCOPE OF THE ASSASSINATIONS HAS EXPANDED. MORE TEACHERS AND EVEN HEALTH WORKERS, LIKE MYSELF. THE LOSS HAS BEEN STAGGERING. OF 100 WORKERS NOW, PERHAPS ONLY 20 ARE MALES, THE REST ARE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN, WHOSE HUSBANDS AND FATHERS HAVE EITHER BEEN ASSASSINATED OR WHO FLED. NOW, EVEN POOR FARMERS AND COOLIES WHO WERE IN THE WRONG ZONE (THE TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE FORMER REGIME) ARE BEING ELIMINATED.

14. QTE A NEW METHOD OF EXECUTION BEGAN IN LATE 1977. YOU WOULD BE CALLED TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE FOR "EDUCATION". YOU NEVER RETURNED. THE KHMER ROUGE TAKE A DOZEN OR SO JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, BEAT THEM WITH STICKS. WHEN THEY WERE BEATEN NEARLY TO DEATH, THE "COUP DE GRACE" WAS

ADMINISTERED--THE DISEMBOWELMENT OF THE NEAR DEAD. THE BODIES ARE LEFT, UNBURNED, TO LET OTHERS KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU. CHILDREN ARE AMONG THE SLAUGHTERED. I, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIKE OTHER PEASANTS, HAVE SEEN THE CADAVERS.

15. QTE I RECALL ONE VERY STRIKING EXAMPLE. FIFTY PERSONS WERE SUMMONED...THEY WERE CALLED "TRAITORS" AND TAKEN JUST FIFTY METERS OUTSIDE MY COLLECTIVE. THERE WERE WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND A FEW MEN. TEN KHMER ROUGE TIED THEIR HANDS BEHIND THEM AND SHOT THEM. THOSE WHO DID NOT DIE WERE BAYONNETED TO DEATH. THERE WERE TWO CHILDREN OF THE VICTIMS WHO WERE NOT IMMEDIATELY KILLED. THEY WERE 3 OR 4 YEARS OLD. I HEARD ONE KHMER ROUGE CRY, "HEY, ARE THESE TWO CHILDREN OF THE GROUP?" "YES." THEY WERE BAYONNETED.

16. QTE ALL THE BODIES WERE THEN HEAPED TOGETHER. LATER, THE OTHER PEASANTS WERE ORDERED TO CARRY THEM TO THE FIELDS, FOR FERTILIZER.

17. QTE 8 MILLION CAMBODIANS* RIDICULOUS. AT THE MOST, THERE ARE ONLY 3 MILLION, PERHPAS ONLY TWO MILLION. THE COUNTRY IS EMPTY. A BUFFALO TENDER TOLD ME THERE ARE 400 WIDOWS IN A VILLAGE FORMERLY OF 2,000 PEOPLE.

18. QTE HUMAN, CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. YOU CANNOT EVEN SPEAK OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA... THERE IS NO SUCH THING. HUMAN RIGHTS ARE TO WORK THE EARTH AND ABSORB THE COMMUNIST DOCTRINE. IN MEETINGS, YOU CANNOT CRITICIZE ANYTHING. POLITICAL SESSIONS ARE DESIGNED ONLY TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNIST PARTY--IN SUPERLATIVES. NO ONE BELIEVES THEIR WORDS, EXCEPT THE KHMER ROUGE, THE ILLITERATE AND THE IGNORANT.

19. QTE COMMUNISM APPEALS TO UNDEVELOPED PEASANTRY, BUT ONCE THEY HAVE TASTED THAT SOUP, IT IS BITTER INDEED. THE SITUATION IS HOPELESS. I BELIEVE THAT CAMBODIA IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DESTINED TO BE ERASED FROM THE MAP. THERE ARE NO PATRIOTS NOW. THERE IS NOTHING IN THE MINDS OR HEARTS OF CAMBODIANS BUT VENGEANCE. WE ONLY WANT TO AVENGE THE HORRORS WHICH HAVE BEEN PERPETRATED UPON US. CAMBODIA WILL DISAPPEAR. THE DOCTRINE OF THE KHMER ROUGE, OF POL POT AND KHIEU SAMPHAN, IS MADNESS. THEY ARE HAUNTED BY

THE FEAR OF TREACHERY. WE WISH ONLY THAT WE HAD THE WEAPONS
TO TAKE REVENGE. END QTE
O'DONOHUE

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